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FM AMEMBASSY DHAKA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4686
INFO RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 9221
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 1777
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 8043
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 2570
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 0865
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 0096
RUEHYE/AMEMBASSY YEREVAN 0003
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU 0011
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO
RUEHOR/AMEMBASSY GABORONE 0019
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0009
RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 0131
RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 0112
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0135
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI 0016
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 0091
RUEHRY/AMEMBASSY CONAKRY 0001
RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE 0032
RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 0036
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0080
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0090
RUEHSTA/USOFFICE ASTANA
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES
RUEHPS/USOFFICE PRISTINA 0001
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 0036
RUEHBP/AMEMBASSY BAMAKO 0024
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0022
RUEHUM/AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR 0020
RUEHPOD/AMEMBASSY PODGORICA
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT 0060
RUEHTO/AMEMBASSY MAPUTO 0015
RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 0017
RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS 0050
RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 0006
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 0020
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 1455
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 0085
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0095
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE
RUEHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 0039
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 0199
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 0046
RUEHCH/AMEMBASSY CHISINAU 0013

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 DHAKA 001267

SIPDIS

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO OPIC / LOREN RODWIN, SENIOR INVESTMENT
OFFICER, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE FINANCE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EINV](#) [ECON](#) [BG](#)

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH: COMMENTS REGARDING CALVERT SOCIAL INVESTMENT
FOUNDATION

REF: STATE 103089

¶1. Embassy Dhaka is pleased to respond to reftel's request for information regarding OPIC's potential support for CALVERT SOCIAL INVESTMENT FOUNDATION. Post has no credible information concerning potential ties to terrorism, money laundering, corruption or violations of law by Activists for Social Alternatives, ASA (<http://www.asabd.org/>) or Bangladesh Unemployed Rehabilitation Organization, BURO (<http://nirapad.org/buro.asp>).

¶2. Bangladesh is well acquainted with NGOs in both the commercial and developmental areas, with estimates of over 20,000 NGOs already operating in the country. In fact, the government of Bangladesh has

created an "NGO Affairs Bureau" specifically to assist in dealing with NGOs in Bangladesh, <http://www.ngoab.gov.bd/>. The rules and regulations concerning NGO activities and transfers of money to NGOs in Bangladesh are very specific, and Calvert should ensure that whatever format their engagement with ASA and BURO takes is in full compliance.

¶3. In terms of general security, NGOs have been specifically threatened by various groups, including most recently in notes accompanying the three bombs which went off in three train stations in Bangladesh on May 1, 2007. Overall, however, NGOs continue to operate effectively throughout Bangladesh while taking appropriate and reasonable safety precautions.

¶4. Bangladesh has a long history of violent political protests, and in fact a state of emergency was declared in Bangladesh on January 11, 2007 in response to escalating political violence in advance of the national parliamentary elections then scheduled for January 26, ¶2007. The election has now been postponed to late 2008; currently the situation remains very peaceful as, for the most part, the non-elected caretaker government enjoys popular support. There is the potential for political violence in the run up to the anticipated 2008 elections and even before then as the political parties may press for earlier elections.

¶5. The AFL-CIO has filed a petition with the United States Trade Representative for the suspension of Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). The USTR is currently reviewing the petition, and as of July 2007, has not decided whether to accept the petition

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or not. It is post's understanding that a loss of GSP facilities would negatively impact OPIC's ability to provide services in Bangladesh.

¶6. Post's point of contact for further inquiries is Carter Wilbur, Economic Officer. Email: wilburcw@state.gov; Phone: (8802) 885-5500 xt 2206; Fax: (8802) 882-4008.

PASI